

Amendments to the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vessel for drying organic waste, the vessel comprising at least two elongate channels, each channel having a length and a substantially segment shaped cross section-, with a radius of between 0.25m and 0.75m.
2. (Original) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein the radius is between 0.3m and 0.6m.
3. (Original) A vessel according to claim 2 wherein the radius is 0.4m.
4. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein the length of each channel is between 3m and 4m.
5. (Original) A vessel according to claim 4 wherein the length of each channel is 3m.
6. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 comprising four channels.
7. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 comprising eight channels.
8. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 comprising twelve channels.

9. Cancelled.

10. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for drying organic waste comprising:

a first vessel according to claim 1, for mixing and heating the organic waste to form an organic paste;

means for adding the organic paste to a first organic powder to form a mixture;

a second vessel according to claim 1, for mixing and heating the mixture to form a second organic powder; and

means for controlling the rate of addition of the organic paste to the first organic powder, such that the resulting mixture is substantially in powder form.

11. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for drying organic waste comprising:

a vessel according to claim 1, for mixing and heating a first quantity of organic waste to form an organic powder;

a conversion unit for converting a portion of the organic powder to generate heat for heating a second quantity of organic waste.

12. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the conversion unit is a combustion unit for burning the portion of the organic powder.

13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a heat exchanger, the heat exchanger using the heat generated by the conversion unit to heat the vessel.

14. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the heat exchanger circulates hot gas beneath the vessel.

15. (Original) A vessel for drying organic waste, the vessel comprising:

at least two elongate adjacent channels, each channel having a length and a substantially segment shaped cross-section;

an axle associated with each channel, each axle mounted for rotation about an axis parallel to the length of its respective channel, each axle mounting a plurality of mixing paddles or one or more helical blades;

an interface between the two channels; and

a first heater for heating the channels, wherein, during drying, the axles associated with adjacent channels are arranged to rotate in opposite directions and the interface between adjacent channels is heated so as to enhance breakdown of the organic waste at the interface.

16. (Original) A vessel according to claim 15 wherein the interface is heated by the first heater.

17. (Original) A vessel according to claim 15 wherein the interface is heated by a second heater.

18. (Currently Amended) A vessel according to claim 15 wherein the radius of the cross-section of each channel is between ~~25~~0.25m and 0.75m.

19. (Original) A vessel according to claim 18 wherein the radius is between 0.3m and 0.6m.
20. (Original) A vessel according to claim 19 wherein the radius is 0.4m.
21. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 15 wherein the length of each channel is between 3m and 4m.
22. (Original) A vessel according to claim 21 wherein the length of each channel is 3m.
23. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 15 comprising four channels.
24. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 15 comprising eight channels.
25. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 15 comprising twelve channels.
26. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for drying organic waste comprising:
 - a first vessel according to claim 15, for mixing and heating the organic waste to form an organic paste;
 - means for adding the organic paste to a first organic powder to form a mixture;
 - a second vessel according to claim 15 for mixing and heating the mixture to form a second organic powder; and
 - means for controlling the rate of addition of the organic paste to the first organic powder, such that the resulting mixture is substantially in powder form.

27. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for drying organic waste comprising:

a vessel according to claim 15, for mixing and heating a first quantity of organic waste to form an organic powder;

a conversion unit for converting a portion of the organic powder to generate heat for heating a second quantity of organic waste.

28. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the conversion unit is a combustion unit for burning the portion of the organic powder.

29. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 27 further comprising a heat exchanger, the heat exchanger using the heat generated by the conversion unit to heat the vessel.

30. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~to~~ claim 29 wherein the heat exchanger circulates hot gas beneath the vessel.

31. (Original) A method for drying organic waste, comprising the steps of:

mixing and heating the organic waste to form an organic paste; then adding the organic paste to a first organic powder to form a mixture and mixing and heating the mixture,

wherein the rate of addition of the organic paste to the first organic powder is such that the resulting mixture is substantially in powder form.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31 wherein the organic waste has a water content of more than about 40% by weight.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein the organic paste has a water content of between about 20% and about 30% by weight.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein the first organic powder has a water content of less than about 10% by weight.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31 further comprising the step of further mixing and heating the mixture to form a second organic powder.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 35 wherein the second organic powder has a water content of about 10% by weight.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31 further comprising the preliminary step of drying organic waste to form the first organic powder.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 37 wherein the step of drying organic waste to form the first organic powder is done by mixing and heating the organic waste.

39. (Original) Apparatus for drying organic waste comprising:

a first vessel for mixing and heating the organic waste to form an organic paste;

means for adding the organic paste to a first organic powder to form a mixture;
a second vessel for mixing and heating the mixture to form a second organic
powder; and

means for controlling the rate of addition of the organic paste to the first organic
powder, such that the resulting mixture is substantially in powder form.

40. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the organic waste has a water content
of more than about 40% by weight.

41. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the organic paste has a
water content of between about 20% and about 30% by weight.

42. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the first organic powder
has a water content of less than about 10% by weight.

43. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the second organic
powder has a water content of about 10% by weight.

44. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the first vessel
comprises:

at least two elongate channels, each channel having a length and a substantially
segment shaped cross-section;

an axle associated with each channel, each axle mounted for rotation about an axis parallel to the length of its respective channel, each axle mounting a plurality of mixing paddles or one or more helical blades; and

a heater for heating the channels.

45. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the second vessel comprises:

at least two elongate channels, each channel having a length and a substantially segment shaped cross-section;

an axle associated with each channel, each axle mounted for rotation about an axis parallel to the length of its respective channel, each axle mounting a plurality of mixing paddles or one or more helical blades; and

a heater for heating the channels.

46. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the first vessel comprises a vessel for drying organic waste, the vessel comprising at least two elongate channels, each channel having a length and a substantially segment shaped cross section-, with a radius of between 0.25m and 0.75m.

47. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the second vessel comprises a vessel for drying organic waste, the vessel comprising at least two elongate channels, each channel having a length and a substantially segment shaped cross section-, with a radius of between 0.25m and 0.75m.

48. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for drying organic waste according to the method of claim 31.

49. (Currently Amended) A method for drying organic waste using a vessel including at least two elongate adjacent channels each having a substantially segment shaped cross-section and an interface between the two channels, the method comprising the steps of:

mixing and heating a first quantity of organic waste to form an organic powder,
wherein the heating comprises heating the interface so as to enhance breakdown of the organic waste at the interface and heating the channels;

converting a portion of the organic powder to heat a second quantity of organic waste.

50. (Original) A method according to claim 49 wherein the step of converting a portion of the organic powder comprises burning a portion of the organic powder.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein the method is carried out as a step by step process.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein the method is carried out as a continuous process.

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein the organic waste has a water content of more than about 40% by weight.

54. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein the organic powder has a water content of about 10% by weight.

55. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for drying organic waste comprising:

a vessel for mixing and heating a first quantity of organic waste to form an organic powder, wherein the vessel comprises:

at least two elongate adjacent channels each having a substantially segment shaped cross-section and an interface between the two channels,

a first heater for heating the channels, and

a second heater for heating the interface, wherein, the interface between adjacent channels is heated so as to enhance breakdown of the organic waste at the interface;
and;

a conversion unit for converting a portion of the organic powder to generate heat for heating a second quantity of organic waste.

56. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 55 wherein the conversion unit is a combustion unit for burning the portion of the organic powder.

57. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 55 further comprising a heat exchanger, the heat exchanger using the heat generated by the conversion unit to heat the vessel.

58. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 57 wherein the heat exchanger circulates hot gas beneath the vessel.

59. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 55 wherein the organic waste has a water content of more than ~~20~~ about 40% by weight.

60. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 55 wherein the organic powder has a water content of about 10% by weight.

61. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 55 wherein the vessel comprises:
at least two elongate channels, each channel having a length and a substantially segment shaped cross-section; and
an axle associated with each channel, each axle mounted for rotation about an axis parallel to the length of its respective channel, each axle mounting a plurality of mixing paddles or one or more helical blades.

62. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 55 wherein the vessel comprises a vessel for drying organic waste, the vessel comprising at least two elongate channels, each channel having a length and a substantially segment shaped cross section-, with a radius of between 0.25m and 0.75m.

63. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for drying organic waste according to the method of claim 31.

64. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for drying organic waste according to the method of claim 49.

65. (New) A vessel for drying organic waste, the vessel comprising:

at least two elongate adjacent channels, each channel having a length and a substantially segment shaped cross-section;

an axle associated with each channel, each axle mounted for rotation about an axis parallel to the length of its respective channel, each axle mounting a plurality of mixing paddles or one or more helical blades;

an interface between the two channels; and

a first heater for heating the channels, wherein, during drying, the axles associated with adjacent channels are arranged to rotate in opposite directions and the interface between adjacent channels is heated so as to enhance breakdown of the organic waste at the interface, wherein the interface is heated by a second heater.